

THE COURIER

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Volume 26, Number 2 (2002)

EDWARD SYLVESTER MORSE: DR. TRUE'S STAR PUPIL

Few connected with Bethel's Gould Academy are aware that one of the leading figures in the fields of zoology and Japanese culture in the 19th century attended that venerable institution in the days of its founder, Dr. Nathaniel Tuckerman True (1812-1887). Edward Sylvester Morse was born in Portland, Maine, 18 June 1838, the son of Deacon Jonathan Kimball Morse and Jane Seymour Beckett. His father was a staunch Calvinist Congregational Christian and his mother, who did not share her husband's religious beliefs, was known for her interest in the sciences.

Much to his father's displeasure, young "Ned" Morse was expelled from every school he attended in his youth—the Portland village school, the academy at Conway, NH in 1851, and Bridgton Academy in 1854. His young, always restless and curious mind could not accept the confines of the standard classroom for he was easily distracted from his studies.

As a boy, Morse was drawn to collecting shells. When he was seventeen he joined the Portland Society of Natural History, where he found encouragement of other naturalists. He also began to correspond with other leading American conchologists.

Sometime prior to 1854, Morse made the acquaintance of another Portlander, John Mead Gould (1839-1930), who would be his lifelong friend. They attended Bridgton Academy in the summer of 1854 and explored the Maine woods in their spare time. In the fall of that year, Morse was severely punished by the schoolmaster and expelled for carving on the wooden desks.

At the age of sixteen, Morse's elder brother, Fred, obtained employment for him as a draftsman for the Portland Company, which made steam engines for trains and ships, a subject far removed from what would become his obsession, zoology, but nonetheless it developed Morse's talent for making detailed drawings. In fact, Morse became so adept at his drawing that he could make different sketches with each hand or write Greek and Latin simultaneously.

"Ned" Morse's academic salvation came with his arrival at Bethel at Gould Academy, where he came under the remarkable influence of Dr. True, who immediately recognized the brilliance of this new student. The Doctor had long been an advocate of encouraging learning outside the



Edward Sylvester Morse (1838-1925). Photo courtesy of the Maine Historical Society.

usual classroom experience. In fact, he often took students to the outdoors, roaming around the area studying glacial formations and observing the local flora and fauna. Dr. True and "Ned" soon formed a strong academic bond, the Doctor giving this sometimes wayward youth much latitude in roaming about the Bethel area hills and Androscoggin river valley in search of specimens for his natural history collection. True also was instrumental in bringing to Morse's acquaintance Charles J. Sprague and Thomas Bouvè of the Boston Society of Natural History, who were known to have journeyed to Bethel to accompany the Doctor and Morse on some of the expeditions in the countryside.

(continued on page 4)



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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

The purpose of a historical society such as ours is to record local and regional history, to display artifacts of the past, and to interpret that history to present and future generations. All of this anchors us to the past, which enables us to appreciate more fully the present and to plan for the future. But is that all? Certainly not. For example, consider the research that uncovers links between Bethel and the international community as published in these pages in the article concerning Edward S. Morse.

As a former science teacher at Gould Academy, I can relate to Dr. True's emphasis on using the outdoor environment to reinforce principles studied in the classroom. Research such as this is not accomplished just through our own resources, but from collaboration with other historical societies and institutions. For example, the photo of E. S. Morse was provided by the Maine Historical Society in Portland. In addition, many of the Society programs and events could not be presented without the assistance and cooperation of local organizations such as the Mahoosuc Arts Council and Gould Academy. Although our roots are in the past, the present and future will always be illuminated by new information and collaborations.

This is my last column as your president. It has been an honor for me to serve, and I appreciate all the support given me these past three years by our dedicated staff and the numerous volunteers who are so generous with their time, expertise, and willingness to always do more. With everyone's continued support, we will maintain our leadership role as a center of local and regional historical knowledge. For all this, I thank everyone from the bottom of my heart.

Alvin Barth

ANNUAL FUND

Help keep the Society strong by making a gift to its Annual Fund Campaign. Tax deductible contributions help support its exhibits, special events, publications, and other programming. Gifts in any amount may be made throughout the year to the Society at P.O. Box 12, Bethel, ME 04217-0012.

(Edward Sylvester Morse, continued from page 1)

On 28 September 1856, Morse discovered a minute snail in Bethel. This discovery launched him on the road to a career as a naturalist. In 1859, the Boston Society of Natural History proclaimed Morse's snail *Tympanis morsei*. For a precocious twenty year old, this designation must have been a tremendous boost to his self-esteem.

True's influence saved young "Ned" Morse from a life that had previously been anything but successful. From Gould, on 27 May 1859, Morse journeyed to Cambridge, MA to meet the famed Louis Agassiz, who occupied the chair of zoology and geology at the Lawrence Scientific School of Harvard University. Under Agassiz's direction, Morse studied marine biology, specializing in chonchology. At this time, Agassiz was perhaps the foremost zoologist in the nation; Morse could not have found a more suitable mentor. For the next generation or so, the list of Agassiz's associates and students became among the leading natural scientists of the era.

During the Civil War, Morse attempted to enlist in Company A of the 25th Maine Infantry Regiment, but was turned down due to a chronic tonsil infection. Throughout the war, however, he was in regular correspondence with John Mead Gould, who sent his diary back to Morse from the front to become, after the war, a major Civil War source, which was published in 1998.

On 18 June 1863, Morse married Ellen ("Nellie") Elizabeth Owen in Portland with John Mead Gould serving as his best man. The couple had two children, Edith Owen and John Gould Morse.

In 1866, Morse settled in Salem, MA, where he spent most of his long life. He became engaged in a study of Atlantic seaboard brachiopods, which would attract international attention.

Two years later, Morse constructed the house at 12 Linden Street in Salem that would be his home for the remainder of his life.

During this period, he helped establish the *American Naturalist* magazine of which he became one of its editors and included a large number of his drawings. His work began to be recognized by a number of professional organizations and prestigious institutions. In 1868, he became a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. The following year, he was selected as the vice-president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and was elevated to the presidency of this organization in 1886. From 1871 to 1874, he occupied the chair of comparative anatomy and zoology at Bowdoin College. In 1874, he was appointed a lecturer at Harvard University. Two years later, he was named a fellow of the National Academy of Science.

In 1877, Morse departed for Japan in search of new specimens and was soon offered a professorial position at Tokyo Imperial University, which he held until 1879. It was at this time, Morse began to collect Japanese pottery,

assembling what would become in the United States the finest collection of the era. In 1890, this collection was purchased by the Boston Museum of Fine Arts. Morse kept a portion of his collection which eventually became the Morse Collection at the Peabody Essex Museum in Salem.

Morse published his *First Book of Zoology* in 1875. This was followed in 1888 with *Japanese Homes and Their Surroundings*. The latter work is of particular interest to historians as he was one of the few westerners to live in 19th century Japan.

Touring Europe in 1887 and 1888, Morse landed at Liverpool and went on to visit England, France, Germany, Austria and Switzerland.

Morse's association with Japan would be long remembered on both sides of the Pacific Ocean. In 1898, Morse was decorated with the Order of the Rising Sun, Third Class by the Japanese Emperor, making him the first American to be so honored. Toward the end of his life in 1922, Morse was again honored in Japan with the Order of the Sacred Treasure, Second Class.

In 1880, Morse returned to Salem. The following year, he assumed his life's work as director of the prestigious Peabody Academy of Science (now known as the Peabody Essex Museum). During his years here, the museum acquired its world famous collection of Oriental art in addition to its extensive nautical holdings. In this position, Morse became a major national figure, which was recognized by his election in 1911 to the presidency of the American Association of Museums.

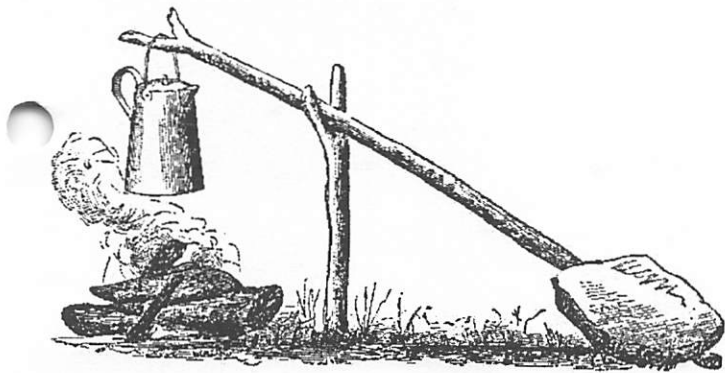
The astronomer, Percival Lowell, inspired his friend Morse to become interested in the planet Mars. Morse would occasionally journey to the Lowell Observatory in Flagstaff, AZ during optimal viewing times to observe the planet. In 1906, Morse published his *Mars and Its Mystery* in defense of Lowell's speculations regarding life on that planet. This work was the only one he produced concerning a subject in which he was not an expert, but it must have made some impact since Morse was admitted to the French Astronomical Society.

Morse's wife Nellie died in 1911. In his later years, he was assisted by the Brooks sisters, Josephine as his housekeeper and Margarette who served as his administrative assistant.

In 1914 when fire consumed most of Salem, MA, Morse's house was among the properties spared. Two of his scientific



A drawing by
Edward S. Morse



A drawing by Edward S. Morse in John Mead Gould's book, *How to Camp Out* published in 1877

associates rushed to assist him in saving his significant scientific collection, but were surprised to find him sitting in his study learning to play a South Sea Island flute.

Two more publications came from his pen, *Glimpses of China and Chinese Homes* (1902) and his last book, *Japan Day by Day* (1917).

On 18 June 1925, Morse received a scarlet cap from Dr. Chiomatsu Isahikawa, a former student in 1877, who had succeeded him as professor of zoology at the Imperial University. This cap was part of a tradition that Japanese men of distinction receive on their eighty-eighth birthday in recognition of their long life and achievements. The cap was indeed an honor, but it came just six months before Morse died in Salem at age 87. His funeral was held at the First Unitarian Church in Salem with burial in the nearby Harmony Grove Cemetery.

Ever the scientist, Morse had bequeathed his brain to the Wistar Institute in Philadelphia with the expectation that some anatomical factor of his ambidexterity might be discerned during an autopsy. Morse wrote his old comrade John Mead Gould reporting that the Institute had commissioned a special jar with his name upon it for storage of his brain when the time came.

Upon hearing of the passing of his lifelong confidante, John Mead Gould, wrote, "What is the world and life here if no Ed Morse?" It is doubtful that Morse would have achieved what he did without the timely appearance of Dr. True and his connections in his young life. Certainly Dr. True's efforts on his behalf were significant in launching Morse's scientific career. Without them, it is difficult to speculate just what would have happened to him. True did make a difference in this case. His work in a small, struggling school in western Maine bore fruit as it did in others fortunate to come under his remarkable influence. True did not live long enough to see the full flowering of his brilliant student, but undoubtedly by the time of his death in 1887, there was little doubt that Morse had become one of the leading scientists of his era. For those wishing to learn more about Morse see: Dorothy G. Wayman, *Edward Sylvester Morse: A Biography* (Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press, 1942).

SRH

Notes Regarding Bethel, Maine by William A. Valentine (continued from the last issue)



Tales of Lost Mines

In my boyhood days there were various stories current of lead mines in the mountains that had been happened on by hunters but which they failed to mark so that they could find them again.

There was a mine actually worked for a time near Gorham, New Hampshire, and its memory is perpetuated by the name Lead Mine Bridge, given to a bridge crossing the Androscoggin River a few miles below Gorham.

I do not know anything about how much it produced or just when it operated.

A few miles from Newry Corner still another find is perpetuated in the name of Puzzle Mountain.

According to the story as I heard it someone got lost on the mountain and while lost found the ore that he could cut pieces off with his knife and put some of the pieces in his pocket. He finally found his way out but could not go back to the place where he got the samples.

There is a place over the mountains from Bethel known as Success Meadows and it was a great place for hunters to go during the winter some time in the last century.

There is a notch through the mountains from the headwaters of Sunday River that can be used in the summer time though for half a mile it is very rough going as it is strewn with great masses of rock and it is "climb over" or pass between or under in the latter part of June you will be walking on ice in places [Mahoosuc Notch?].

Owen Demeritt, the bear hunter, told me that in the winter the notch drifts full of snow and that probably accounts for the story I remember a little of that was told by an old man when I was about eight years old.

Two hunters were coming through and when they got to the top of the divide one of them slid down until he was nearly out of sight when he stopped, then the other slid down and joined him. My memory is rather vague, but I think the they found the mine near where they landed but if they did they were unable to find it again when they tried to go back in the summertime.

Anyway, a year later, one of the men was coming though alone and did not dare to slide down but let his pack and hatchet slide down while he climbed down more carefully and when he got there found his hatchet had landed on edge and was sticking in the lead. But again, he was unable to go back and find the place in the summertime.

They say that in the old days, there were one or more old Indian hunters who could go out in the mountains and get a few pounds of lead any time they wanted to do so. Some leaflet that we got in the White Mountains mentions the above fact, but states that what the Indians got was sixty per cent silver.

(continued on next page)

(Valentine Notes, continued from page 5)

The last time I saw Uncle Irving Bean I was talking with him about the mines and he said that an uncle of his once persuaded one of the Indians to show him where and how he got the lead.

He took him up into the mountains where the rock was overhanging and built a hot fire under it and when the fire got hot enough the molten lead came running down.

I asked Uncle where it was and he said he thought it was in back of Goose Eye Mountain and that would be the location of the Mahoosuc Notch that Irving Clark, Norman and I went through in 1921.

The going was so bad that I was anxious for us to go through without somebody breaking a leg or getting hurt and I never thought at that time about the mine stories.

In my boyhood days, I never knew there was any way into Success except over or through the mountains but it seems years ago when they were lumbering in there they had a railroad in there. Since the railroad was taken up, they made some kind of a road in on the old railroad bed and you can drive in about 14 miles to Success Pond where they have a number of cottages.

When we drove in from Berlin, N.H. in 1932, we crossed 58 bridges or culverts and were about 1½ hours going the fourteen miles.

It was a great place to go fishing in the old days.

In 1883, Ed and Seth Mason went over the mountains into Success fishing and got 2000 trout.

At one time, there was a mill at Screw Auger Falls, but it was burned before my time.

Moses Mason [probably Moses A. Mason (1826-1904), who lived in the Mayville section of Bethel] was interested in lead mine stories and once told me he thought he had found metal at Screw Auger Falls, but when he had it tested it proved to be babbitt metal from the bearings of the burned mill.

(to be continued in next issue)



Alden Kennett demonstrates dovetailing at the annual Sudbury Canada Days festivities in August.



MEMBER PROFILE:

Mary E. Valentine

Born in Wilkinson, PA, Mary E. Valentine is the daughter of Carroll E. and Nell Whitmore Valentine. She received her education at Wilkesburg High School, followed by earning a B.S. in liberal studies at Carnegie Institute of Technology (now Carnegie-Mellon University) and a M.S. in education at Indiana University after which she took a position as church secretary of the First Christian Church, Bloomington, IN. It was at this time that she also became a church organist. At the suggestion of her organ teacher, she migrated to New York City the next year to develop her musical interest while studying at Columbia University for a M.S. in Library Science. After graduating from Columbia, she became Assistant Library Director at the Thayer Public Library in Braintree, MA and continued there until her parents' declining health brought her back to Bethel, where she spent the next twenty-five years as Minister of Music at the West Parish Congregational Church.

At the Society, she has served on several committees, hosted visitors at the Dr. Moses Mason House and in recent years assisted researchers in the research library, where her skills as a former reference librarian are put to excellent use with all the numerous inquiries received throughout the year.

Her hobbies include reading, doing historical research, and music.

SNOW ROLLER RESTORED

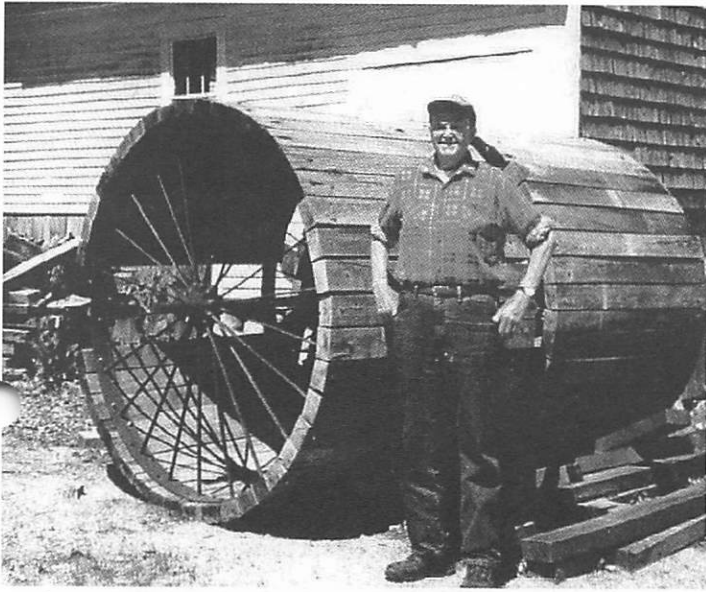
In 1976, the Society, through the efforts of Romeo Baker and Curator of Collections Randall Bennett, acquired the Sunday River snow roller, used in the region to pack the roads down for "good sleighing" from about 1900 until 1927 when a new tractor plow was acquired by the Town of Newry. The roller was abandoned on Romeo Baker's land until it was removed in 1976 to a series of barns, where it "resided" prior to being restored.

In 1995, Life and Honorary Member Rodney K. Howe, who took a great interest in this artifact, cut oak on his wood lot for the purpose of replacing the oak "planks," many of which had rotted away in the years since 1927. Ernest Angevine sawed out the pieces that would restore the rolling surface. For the last few years of his life, Rodney Howe spent many hours fitting these pieces on to the roller. Just before his death in 1999, he finished the job with the request that

someone else would have to complete the seat, framework, and "tongue" which made it possible for the horse to haul.

Earlier this year, the roller was moved to Life and Honorary Member Avery Angevine's work area, where he proceeded complete what was needed to bring it back to its former appearance. He was assisted in this project by a variety of people and businesses that supplied wood, bolts, braces and other equipment, transported the roller or moved logs. The Society is very grateful to Avery and all of the following for their help in making Rodney Howe's dream a reality: Tom Wheeler, Tim Korhonen, Roy Newton, Donald G. Bennett, Berlin Spring Company, Brooks Bros., Inc., Hancock Lumber, Ernest Angevine, and D. A. Wilson and Sons.

The snow roller was on exhibit during the 2002 Sudbury Canada Days and for much of the fall. It will eventually be placed in a permanent site where it can be seen by visitors for years to come.



Rodney K. Howe stands beside the snow roller after finishing much of the planking in 1998.



Avery Angevine (left) explains the function of various parts of the snow roller to Randall Bennett (center) and Stanley Howe (right). Danna Nickerson photo.



Doug Wilson of D. A. Wilson & Sons lifts off the snow roller to the lawn of the Robinson House



Dennis A. Wilson, Doug Wilson, David Daye, and Phil Rolfe of D.A. Wilson & Sons stand in front of the roller after its safe delivery to the Robinson House lawn

"Memories of Dr. True: In the School"

by Aked Ellingwood

(From *The Bethel News*, 10 June 1896)

This Centennial number of the *Bethel News* would be incomplete without some mention of the late Dr. N. T. True. His name is so thoroughly identified with the progress of the town, its literary and school work and its social life, that a Centennial celebration would be greatly lacking without some representation of this good man, exerting as he did so great an influence over so many of our people. In the celebration of 1874, Dr. True was the leading spirit, and we fail to find a record of any important event in the history of the town for many years where the name of Dr. N. T. True does not occupy a conspicuous place. The old *Bethel Courier*, the only newspaper ever published in Bethel prior to the *News*, was edited by Dr. True, and it has been with pleasure that I have recently read some of the copies of that paper.

I first met the Doctor in 1882, when he went to Milan, N.H., to teach a high school. It was my good fortune to be his pupil three terms, and I remember him with the kindest feeling. The morning he opened his first term of school in that place, in a little talk to the scholars he said, "Everything of value has work behind it," and he ever endeavored by his example to impress this thought upon the minds of his pupils. He was eminently practical in his methods of teaching, and used very few textbooks, preferring his notebooks to any other method. I have before me "Notes on Chemistry," "Geological Notes," and several other note books which were arranged under his direction; and intermingled with the lessons I find I have written out a great deal of practical information and bright sayings of which he made use in explaining the lessons. He gave one afternoon a lecture on "Color," which was, I think, written out by every scholar in the school; another lecture on "Clouds" contained much practical information. He was ever striving to give his scholars an education that would mean something to them in their after life.

Dr. True could never countenance a mean action on the part of a pupil; he admired a manly straightforward boy.

He usually spent his recesses drilling the boys, and girls too, in military tactics, and would frequently speak of "us boys," laying considerable stress on "us." He, as well as the scholars, enjoyed the military exercises, and on entering or leaving the school room, we would keep step to his "Left, right, left, right, left, right." One of the young ladies found it rather difficult to keep step with the rest, and one day the Doctor varied the usual formula to suit the exigencies of the occasion, in this wise: "Left,



Grace McKivergan demonstrates dyeing yarn using goldenrod at the 2002 Sudbury Canada Days

right, left, right, Miss Potter, keep step, left, right, left, right," much to the amusement of some of the younger pupils. I wonder if there are not those of Gould's Academy, as well as of the Milan school, who will remember Dr. True's talks on Geology, and the rambles they took with him hunting for specimens. Geology was a favorite study with him, and his talks on the different "epochs," "ages," and "periods," will be vividly recalled to our minds whenever we hear his name spoken. I think I have never met a teacher, who had so wide a range of knowledge as he did. His memory was good, and he had been a lifelong student. He was as happy over a new idea as a small boy with his first pair of pantaloons. He enjoyed a difficult problem, and if he could not study it out through the day, would usually think out the solution after retiring for the night.

W. B. Lapham, M.D.,

"Maine Summer Retreats,"

COLBY'S ATLAS OF MAINE 1886-7

"...The next important point on the Grand Trunk is Bethel, a place so well-known and established as a summer resort that but little need to be said about it. It is situated on both sides of the Androscoggin, surrounded by high mountains, and for many years it has been the favorite haunt of city people. There are good hotels and numerous private boarding houses, and during the summer months the transient population of the two villages, Bethel Hill and Mayville, often outnumbers the other inhabitants. The surrounding scenery is wonderfully fine; "the beautiful and the grand mingling in harmony," and producing a most pleasing effect."

Diary of William S. Hastings

(continued from the last issue)



1939—March 1, Clear, warm. I took Bob's car to Norway to have new clutch. March 2, Clear, cold. I'm laid up with back. March 3, Clear & warm. Cut birch. Finished cutting in Bean Swamp. March 4, Cloudy, warm. Put up 100 bu. spuds, 70 bu. to Urban [Bartlett]. Started cutting birch logs in p.m. Snow has settled some but crust is stiff. March 5, Cloudy, warm. Cleaned out chix. Filed saw. Greenwood in p.m. March 6, Light rain. Town meeting. I hauled two loads of shavings. March 7, Clear, cold & windy. Sawed ½ of one log yard in 10R7. March 8, -5 [degrees]. Clear & cold. On yard. Nearly finished one yard. March 9, Snow (light). Hauled 1 cord birch wood to each cellar. Unloaded shavings. Put up spuds. March 10, Clear & cool. Bob in Portland. I assembled the motor on the potato grader. Works nice. March 11, Cold, windy. Put up 50 bu. for Urban. Sawed wood into cellars. Set 1 incubator, 394 eggs. March 12, Cloudy, cold. South wind. Grover [Brooks], John [Howe], Rodney [Howe] & I went to Umbagog & wrecked the camp. Drove in over old Magalloway road to Tyler Cove. March 13, Snow. Blizzard. 33 inches (about). Some storm! 51 years ago today was the famous "Blizzard of 88." March 14, Clear, windy. Shoveled all a.m. In p.m. Leslie [Noyes] & I snowshoed to our cuttings in 10R7. Just 2 hrs. to make it. Sank below our knees every step. Snow is 4 ft. plus. March 15, Clear & cool. Took Edward to dentist & had tooth out. In p.m. I put motor & elevator bagger on oat winnowing mill. Works nice. Also drove a well in Coburn celler. Snowed 4 inches. March 16, Cloudy, clear. Tinkering. March 17, Clear & cool. Took car to Norway. Valves ground, 14,944 miles. March 18, -10 [degrees] Clear, cool. Hauled 2 loads of hay to [H. Elmer] Fiske [grain dealer in Locke Mills]. Set incubator, 392 eggs. March 19, -12 [degrees] Clear & cool. Cleaned chix. Went to Greenwood for a few minutes. March 20, Snow. Bob is sick. I built new egg trays for incubator, etc. March 21, Clear, windy. Norway with 24 bu. spuds, 87cents per bu. It surely looks like spring—NOT. Sled road up into yards is level with top of mailboxes. March 22, Clear, warmer. Set incubator (241 eggs). Installed sink in cellar. Washed 17 mash hoppers. March 23, -15 [degrees] Clear, cool. Hauled 2200 lbs. of hay to Oscar Twitchell. Made a fire alarm for incubators. March 24, Clear, warm. Snow melted some. Hauled 2 loads birch to Tebbetts Co. [Locke Mills]. Put up 40 bu. spuds. Roads are good. Solid ice. Snow is about 3 or 4 ft. deep. March 25, Clear, warm. Hauled birch. Made a brooder-damper for Gene [Houle]. March 26, Light rain. Usual a.m. Greenwood in p.m. Roads are softening up some. Sick at night. March 27, Clear & warm. Sick all day. Liver, I guess. March 28, Cloudy, cold. Still sick. March 29, Clear & cold. Little better. Crew is in woods. Snow doesn't settle any. Almost 5 ft. in woods. March 30, Rainy & snowy. Norway & had back fixed. Auburn to see [Dr.] Gard Twaddle. He put me on a diet. March 31, Cold & cloudy. Snow doesn't settle a bit. Cleaning up brooder house. Chix are hatching. Moved 294 to South brooder house.

April 1, Cloudy & warm. 70 bu. spuds to Urban. Getting ready to move chix. 270 chix hatched. April 2, Nor'east Blizzard all day. 10" snow. Worked all a.m. April 3, Cloudy, squalls. Set 2 incubators. Put 270 chix in brooder cellar, 165 [Rhode Island] reds, 105 [Plymouth] rocks. Snow is 4 ft. deep on level. April 4, Cloudy. Put 162 pullets in North house. April 5, Cool, cloudy. Sawed on yard in 10 R 7. Snow is awful deep. April 6, Cloudy, rain at night. Finished yard. Got an awful cold. April 7, Cloudy, cold. Sick in House. Bob in Portland. April 8, Cloudy, cold. Cold is better. Snow doesn't melt any. 300 chix hatched. April 9, I checked lines in Lot 12 R 7. Hiked about 5 miles. April 10, Clear & warm. Grover & I surveyed the west line of his lot in Lot 9 R 7 Upton. I was lucky and hit the corner "right on the nose." April 11, Rain after 2" of snow. Got Ruth a folding ironing board. Moved tools back into shed. April 12, Cloudy, cold, windy. Put up spuds. Chix into batteries. Set up sixth incubator. April 13, Cold & windy. Set incubators (2). Hauled 3 loads wood from woods. April 14, Clear and warm. Ruth and I went to Portland via Auburn. Spuds are \$2 per cwt. at stores. Roads are getting bad. April 15, Cloudy, cold. Unloading fertilizer & hauling bolts to mill. April 16, Cold, windy. Greenwood via W. Paris. Roads haven't thawed much. Snow is over 2 ft. deep here around buildings. 4 ft. in woods. April 17, Fair, warm. Hauled wood. Hay to Jim Ring [Locke Mills]. 200 chix to Leslie, 200 to Evans Wilson. I was sworn in as town constable. April 18, Rain. Cleaned brooder. 2 ft. snow in garden. Put up load spuds. April 19, Rain & thundershower. Repaired sled. Took banking away [from foundation of house]. Bob in Portland. Spuds 200 per cwt. First robin. Bill is 10. April 21, Clear & warm. Hauled 3 loads from woods. No bare ground in sight. Started sawing wood in p.m. Sawed & split one pile. April 22, Rain a.m. Clear & warm p.m. Put up 40 cwt. seed potatoes. Finished one window in shed cellar. Ruth is in So. Paris. April 23, Clear & warm, windy. Snow is settling but still covers the ground. April 24, Clouding. Hauled 3 loads wood. Bethel in p.m. Wet snow. April 25, Cloudy. Finished hauling down Hodgdon Hill. Broke sled pole. Bob gone to Bowdoinham with seed spuds. April 26, Cloudy. Sawing wood in a.m. Hauled hay in p.m. 75 chicks ordered by Redmond (Rocks). April 27, Rain. Started my roof job. Edward E. Hastings died last night [a cousin in Fryeburg]. April 28, Clear, warm. Shingling. District Mason meeting in Norway. April 29, Clear & warm. Almost finished shingling 3 sides of the house. Edward's funeral. Leo [Cole, Ruth's brother] got thrown from wagon. 12 stitches in his scalp. April 30, Clear & warm. Planted stone posts at corner of new cemetery. Greenwood in p.m.

May 1, Cloudy, cool. Worked on roof. Finished laying shingles. 13M@\$6. May 2, Clear, warm. Finished roof job. Looks fine. Sawed wood. Bob delivered 200 chix. Snow is nearly gone, but frost is not out. May 3, Clear, warm. Repairing blacksmith shop. Pond clear of ice. Joined Order of Eastern Star in eve. (Ruth & I). May 4, Clear, cool. I went to Grand Lodge in Portland with Frank [Bean] & Clint [Littlefield]. Nice trip. Bob & Laura Harvey [college roommate and wife] came [from Dover Foxcroft]. May 5,

(continued on next page)

(Hastings Diary, continued from page 9)

Cloudy, clearing. Put up spuds. Bob went to Bowdoinham with spuds & chix. Dad & I shingled on shop. May 6, Clear & warm. May 7, Clear, warm. I checked the Bethel/Rumford line. Lot of snow in the woods. May 8, Clear, warm. Finished sawing wood in a.m. Serviced tractor in p.m. Spread manure on garden. May 9, Clouding up. Gave a day's work to cemetery. Clint [Littlefield] is here papering living & dining room. May 10, Clear-warm-Hot. Plowed & harrowed garden. Planted peas. Hay to Jim Ring. May 11, Clear & warm. Hay to Frank Bean. I harrowed Home Pasture. Wet on edges. River is high. Mason meeting. May 12, Clear, cold & windy. Spread manure & repaired old truck. May 13, Cold & windy. Repaired spreader, etc. Taken blind at noon. Sick all p.m. & night. Back is bad. Sold 350 chix. May 14, Cloudy, cold. Norway to see Dr. Swett. Greenwood. Home at 4:30. Sold 40 week-old chix to Brown of Upton. Moved chix to house. May 15, Clear, cool. Put up spuds. May 16, Clear, cool. Put up spuds, repaired planter. Testimonial dinner for Clarence J. Perham [Bryant Pond carpenter]. Barbara is sick. May 17, Clear, warm. Worked on planter & harrowed in p.m. Bob in Portland. Spuds quoted \$1.10 per cwt. May 18, Coldern H—! Wind a GALE! We started planting potatoes. Nearly 2A. F & Game meeting in eve. May 19, Cloudy. Planted spuds 2 A. Bob is selling Farm Bureau lime. May 20, Clear & warm. Had back treated. All out again. Car greased & oiled & gas tank soldered. May 21, Rain. Typical Sunday. Put up spuds all a.m. Sick all p.m. In between I started a stadia rod, graduated in links & tenths. May 22, Cloudy. Cut & soaked seed. Put up the last potato for this year. May 23, Cloudy, cold. I cut seed, fixed red truck, plowed, harrowed & fixed machinery. Got radio back. Wrote B. BP. Co. May 24, Clear, warm. Plowed, harrowed & planted. About 6 A planted. May 25, Cloudy. Harrowing & planting. May 26 [no entry] May 27, Clear, warm. Harrowed in a.m. Planted garden in p.m. May 28, Clear, Hot! I hustled all day. May 29, Rain. Cleaned incubators, etc. Helped John [Howe] in cemetery. May 30, Clear, warm. Planted 2 A seed spuds. About 16 ½ A in. Cows in pasture. May 31, Clear, cool. Graduation at Gould Acad. A.W. Walker sent a potato planter up here, John Deere Picker Planter, 1 row.

(to be continued in the next issue)



Brenda Dyer, children's games coordinator for Sudbury Canada Days, supervises the annual ice eating contest.

Notes on the Atlantic and St. Lawrence Railroad

Courtesy of Larry Glatz, Harrison, ME, quoted from the *Eastern Argus*, Portland, Maine, 20 February 1851, page 2.

"We are happy to report to our readers that the locomotive 'Jenny Lind' run over the Road from Paris into the depot at Bethel Hill yesterday. The sleepers are laid upon, and in the solid earth, and not upon the snow, this part of the work having been done prior to the frost setting in. We are informed by the indefatigable contractors, that it has cost them \$5000 more to finish this portion of the track, in consequence of excessive depth of the snow which fell on the 22d and 23d of December last, and the necessity of shoveling it off the road bed, in order to lay the rail, and the extreme severity of the winter. Freight trains will hereafter run regularly to and from Bethel; and we understand regular passenger trains will commence running from and after the first of March—that is to say, in about a week hence.

Not long since, the President of one of the Massachusetts railroads being told, that the At. & St. Law. Railroad would certainly be built to Bethel—remarked, 'Bethel, and where in thunder is Bethel?' We will try to inform our friends of Massachusetts where Bethel is. Taking either Greenleaf's or Deane's Map of Maine, and following up the river Androscoggin, you will, after several abrupt changes in the course, come to a point, where, at nearly right angles with its lower downward course, the river comes in from the west. At this angle in the course of the river, is situated the town of Bethel, in Oxford County—the region of the 'huge paws' we sometimes hear of. At Bethel, there is an Academy for the education of 'young cubs.' The town, according to the census of 1850, has a population of 2,253 souls. But what is more interesting to the Railroad is, that by reaching this point, the Road here necessarily commands the trade and business of the upper Androscoggin, and of its tributaries.

We are further informed, that the work on the Road above Bethel is progressing in the most satisfactory manner, and that it will certainly be opened for the public to travel to Gorham, N.H. *by the last of June* at farthest. This latter place, also on the banks of the Androscoggin, and distant westward from Bethel some twenty-two miles, is beyond all question destined to be the great resort of the White Mountain visitors. The scenery there and in the vicinity, is most picturesque and grand."



The north side of the ca. 1821 O'Neil Robinson House as it looked prior to 1905 before William and Agnes Straw had the sun porch added. Currently as part of the Society's Regional History Center, the building contains several exhibit galleries, the museum shop, and offices.

Book Note

A Suburb of Paradise: The White Mountains and the Visual Arts. Edited by Donna Bell-Garvin. (Concord, NH: New Hampshire Historical Society, 1999. Pp. 103. Paper . \$10.95.)

This volume, which originated from a symposium sponsored by the Mt. Washington Observatory in 1996, contains seven essays by leading scholars who explore the history of visual images of the White Mountains of New Hampshire and Maine. There is also a preface by Bryant Tolles of the University of Delaware and an introduction by David Tatham of Syracuse University. Topics covered include popular press treatment, depictions by artists such as Winslow Homer, and the photography of Francis Blake. The book is richly illustrated with eleven color photos of paintings as well as dozens of black and white images.

To order, please see page 12.

BETHEL HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S COMMITMENT TO THE FUTURE

The Bethel Historical Society is committed to building on its reputation as a premier regional history center that will continue to enrich the educational and cultural life of its community for generations to come. Members and friends have generously contributed to the operations of the Society and to the acquisition of the Robinson House. In order to ensure the long-term maintenance and further development of the Center's facilities, programs, and collections, the Society is seeking new forms of support. You, readers of *The Courier*, are asked to consider making a charitable gift to the Society through a bequest in your will, the establishment of a trust, or a number of other financial arrangements and options that are available. These charitable gifts can be structured to support the Society's mission while at the same time assuring the security of your family. For more information, please contact the Society by calling (207) 824-2908 or (800) 824-2910 or by writing to P.O. Box 12, Bethel, ME 04217 or by an e-mail: info@bethelhistorical.org

Editor's Corner

Elsewhere in this issue is an article and photographs relating to the preservation of the Sunday River snow roller. It is always good to be able to report the saving of an important part of the history of this region. Many people were involved in this success story and is important to stress once more how grateful we are that "where there's a will, there's a way." SRH

NEW LIFE MEMBER

Doris M. Sandell, Raymond

IN MEMORIAM

Died, 8 February 2001, Eunice Keddy, Attleboro, MA, Life Member

Died, 26 June 2002, Dale Lapham, Hanover, Life Member

Died, 10 July 2002, Lillian E. (Betty) Perkins, Life Member

Died, 15 July 2002, Donald B. Eddy, Haverford, PA, Honorary Member

Died, 31 August 2002, Rita H. Davis, Bethel, Life Member

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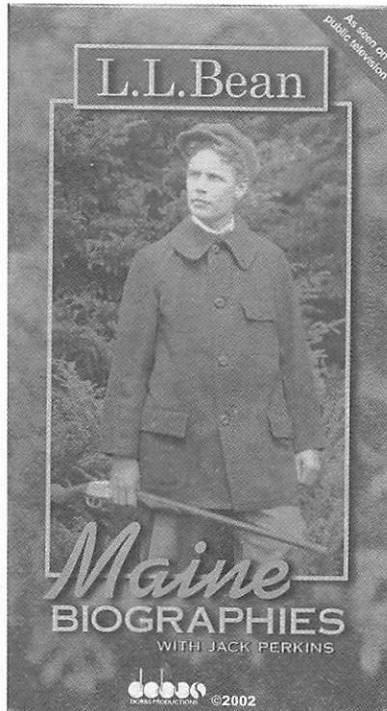
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FROM THE MUSEUM SHOP*



Maine Biographies: L. L. Bean

Utilizing a number of historical photos from the collections of the Bethel Historical Society, this new video investigates the life of Leon Leonwood Bean, who was born in Greenwood, Maine, and went on to found a business empire in Freeport that is known to millions today. Approximately 60 minutes. \$19.95

To order: Send check or money order to the Bethel Historical Society, P.O. Box 12, Bethel, ME 04217-0012. Members may deduct 10% from prices given on orders of \$10 or more. Shipments to Maine addresses should include 5% sales tax. Shipping fees: under \$10 = \$2.00; \$10 to \$19.99 = \$3.00; \$20 and over = \$4.00

For a list of additional items available from the Museum Shop, please visit our web site at www.bethelhistorical.org

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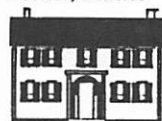
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